

CONFERENCES

Mines, Demolition And Non-Lethal Conference And Exhibition

The National Defense Industrial Association, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center, has announced that the 2002 Mines, Demolition and Non-Lethal Conference and Exhibition will be held June 3-5, 2002, in Tampa, FL. This year's theme is "Meeting the Needs of a Transforming Force."

The Army's evolving requirements for the future force demand flexibility of response, greater situational awareness, and continuing compliance with international agreements—all within lighter, more rapidly deployable packaging. Programs to meet these needs will be presented at the conference. Additionally, industry and the international community will present alternative solutions and discuss technological innovations and research. Possible topics of discussion include sensors and communications for future mine programs, technology initiatives in military demolitions, nonlethal innovations effecting personnel targets, and fuzes and energetics impacting future mine programs.

To view conference and registration information, go to <http://register.ndia.org/interview/register.ndia?~Brochure~2500>. For further inquiries, contact

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50th Defense Working Group On NDT

The 50th Defense Working Group (DWG) on Nondestructive Testing (NDT) will be held Nov. 18-21, 2002, at the Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, Portsmouth, VA. The meeting will be hosted by the Commander, Naval Air Forces, Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, VA.

Attendance is restricted and tightly controlled, with the focus on information exchange and problem solving without regard to contractual considerations. This annual meeting of engineers, scientists, and technicians provides the only forum for military, Defense Logistics Agency, and Defense Contract Management Agency representatives to freely exchange information and discuss problems pertaining to NDT methods, equipment, and applications.

Additional information on the 50th DWG meeting is available at <http://hometown.aol.com/dodndt>, or contact Todd Stelzig, Shore Intermediate Maintenance Activity, Norfolk, VA, at (757) 444-1954, Ext. 3420, or DSN 564-1954, Ext. 3420, or by e-mail at tstelzig@marmc.spear.navy.mil.

ACQUISITION EXCELLENCE

Progress Report On Commercial Acquisitions

The use of Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 12 is designed to provide DOD greater access to commercial markets with increased competition, better prices, and new market entrants or technologies. To achieve the DOD-directed goal of increasing commercial acquisitions using FAR Part 12, the following Army goals are planned:

- Double the dollar value of FAR Part 12 contract actions awarded in 1999 by the end of FY05. The 1999 baseline is \$2.479 billion.
- Increase the number of FAR Part 12 contract actions awarded to 50 percent of all Army contract actions by the end of FY05.

Note: For purpose of these goals, a contract action is defined as any new contract award and/or new delivery order with a value greater than \$25,000.

Progress is tracked using the *Individual Contracting Action Report* (DD Form 350). FY01 data indicate that the dollar value of FAR Part 12 contract actions awarded by the Army is \$3.770 billion, a 52 percent increase over FY99. This equates to 18 percent of *all* Army contract actions during this period and shows that the Army is on track to reach the two goals by FY05.

Part 12 usage, as currently captured in DD Form 350 data, does not represent a comprehensive measure of Army efforts to incorporate commercial and commercial-like practices. In addition, market research and FAR Part 15 procedures are used to incorporate best practices from these types of commercial arrangements whenever possible. Construction, a significant part of Army contracts with business arrangements widely available to the general public, is also not counted under FAR Part 12.

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